

REMARKS

The applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

The applicants acknowledge and appreciate receiving an initialed copy of the forms PTO-1449 that were filed on July 25, 2003 and September 21, 2004.

Claims 1 – 44 are pending, and claim 45 has been canceled without prejudice. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The specification and abstract were objected to because the term “ID” required clarification. By way of the above amendment, the first occurrence of the term “ID” in the sections of the specification and abstract have been amended to clarify that “ID” is an abbreviation. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In addition, claims 1 – 45 were objected to because the term “ID” required clarification. Also, in claim 3, the examiner objected to a particular word. By way of the above amendments, the foregoing amendments suggested in the office action have been made. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Claim 44 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,463,374, Mendez et al. (“Mendez”). Claims 1 – 8, 11 – 22, 25 – 37, 40 – 43 and 45 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mendez. Claims 9 – 10, 23 – 24 and 38 – 39 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mendez in view of U.S.

Patent 6,542,077, Joao ("Joao"). The rejections are respectfully traversed for reasons including the following, which are provided by way of example.

As described in the application, one or more aspects of the invention is directed to solving the problem of collecting identifications of air pressure sensors, "so that tire positions are identifiable." (Specification page 2, lines 23 – 26.) Independent claim 1 is directed to a sensor identification registration method and recites in combination, for example, "air pressures sensors mounted on respective tires of a vehicle;" "a plurality of transmitters being provided on a body of said vehicle, each of said transmitters being made to encompass only one of the tires in the transmission area corresponding to one of the transmitters;" "one of said air pressure sensors transmits its own identification in response to an identification transmission request transmitted from one of said transmitters;" and "a receiver of said vehicle body receives said identification transmitted from the one of said air pressure sensors" (See also claims 2, 15, 16, 29, and 30.) Independent claim 44 is directed to a tire air pressure sensor and recites, in combination, "reception means disposed in a transmission area of one of a plurality of transmitters;" "identification transmission means for ... transmitting said identification of said sensor."

That is, for the registration of an identification of each of a plurality of air pressure sensors, a plurality of transmitters are provided on a vehicle body side and a plurality of air pressure sensors are provided on a vehicle tire side, (e.g., on tires), so that each of the air pressure sensors exists within a transmission area of only the corresponding transmitter. Consequently, communications are limited to the transmitter and the air pressure sensor in the transmitter's transmitter area. Thereby, when one of the transmitters issues an identification transmission request, only the corresponding air pressure sensor can receive the identification transmission request and transmit its own identification. The identification that is transmitted therefore belongs to the pressure sensor corresponding to the particular transmitter. As a

consequence, this identification can be registered in memory as related to the transmitter which issued the identification transmission request, thereby accurately providing the tire air pressure for a particular tire.

Without conceding that Mendez discloses any feature of the present invention, Mendez is directed to a tire pressure monitoring and shared keyless entry control.

The office action asserts that the invention as claimed is not patentable over Mendez. To the contrary, Mendez fails to teach or suggest the invention, as presently claimed, when the claims are considered as a whole. Mendez fails to teach or suggests, for example, a transmission function, e.g., a plurality of transmitters, each of which takes care of respective air pressure sensors which exist in the one of the transmitter's transmission area. (See, e.g., claim 1.) To the contrary, Mendez does not have "a plurality of transmitters provided on the body of said vehicle" Mendez cannot provide a plurality of transmitters, each of which takes care of the air pressure sensor for a corresponding tire, where the air pressure sensor exists in one of the transmitter's transmission area.

Mendez' transmission function with an FM transmitter (42) and a transmitter antenna (46) on the air pressure sensor side fails to teach or suggest the transmission and reception steps, or the transmitters and transmission/receptions means, as claimed.

Moreover, Mendez fails to teach or suggest that one of the air pressure sensors receives an identification transmission request from the corresponding one of the transmitters and transmits its own identification for the registration of the identification of the air pressure sensor. To the contrary, Mendez provides for manually registering an identification through the use of a magnet (36).

Mendez fails to teach or suggest, for example, these elements recited in independent claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 29, 30, and 44. It is respectfully submitted therefore that claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 29, 30, and 44 are patentable over Mendez.

For at least these reasons, the combination of features recited in independent claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 29, 30, and 44, when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art. In addition, Mendez clearly fails to show other claimed features as well.

With respect to the rejected dependent claims, the applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable not only by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 29 and 30, but also because of additional features they recite in combination.

The applicants respectfully submit that, as described above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest the combination of features recited in the claims. The applicants do not concede that the cited prior art shows any of the elements recited in the claims. However, the applicants have provided specific examples of elements in the claims that are clearly not present in the cited prior art.

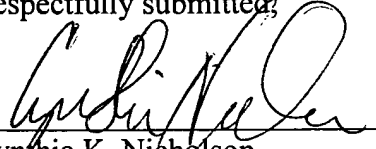
The applicants strongly emphasize that one reviewing the prosecution history should not interpret any of the examples applicant has described herein in connection with distinguishing over the prior art as limiting to those specific features in isolation. Rather, for the sake of simplicity, the applicants have provided examples of why the claims described above are distinguishable over the cited prior art.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

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Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,


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